

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RINGTOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

**Council members present** were Clarissa Geary, Jewel Tuberty, Gary Williams, Gary Schell, Cory Houser, Jerid Lindenmuth, Wayne Mensinger, Jim Hart, Tracy Laudeman, and Sandy Hart. Also present were Pastor Smith and Marion Chupasco. The meeting opened with Sandy Hart reading the devotions. Minutes from last month were read and approved.

**Treasurer reports** were reviewed and filed for audit.

**Pastor's report:** A baptism is scheduled this week. Catechism classes are continuing. Mt. Zion hoagie sale this Sunday for a person who has a medical condition. Pastor Smith once again invited the congregation to their Ash Wednesday service. He will also offer drive by Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday 12:30pm at Ringtown and 1:30pm at Brandonville.

**Office report** was reviewed. Set the dates for the Chicken BBQ, which will be July 21<sup>st</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee reports:**

**Helping Hands** – discussed upcoming soup sale.

**Social Ministry** – discussed Souper Bowl World Hunger and to do a Valentine's Day greeting and gift to college and military youth. Personal care kits for LWF during Lent & Easter season. Easter baskets will be made for shut ins. Also members scheduled meatloaf dinner for September.

**Capital Campaign** – Met pledge goal and had a celebration after church with coffee and refreshments.

**Building Committee** – Decided for safety purposes to keep gas valve off for stove until it is in use. Pulley for snow blower is ordered. Gary Williams will be putting on new belts as well. Cleaning and waxing of kitchen floor is covered by Helping Hands funds. Gary Williams agreed to check parsonage on very cold days so no pipes freeze. Meeting Monday afternoon to discuss options of new church. The estimate will be reviewed and discussed. Cory Houser discussed finding a grant to get an AED in the church. Everyone agreed.

**Old Business:**

Clarissa is still working on Mandated Reporter paperwork. Thank you to Jewel for opening the Congregational Meeting in January. Discussed making a booklet for church services and how to get more participation in the church service, such as ushering, reading, etc.

**New Business:**

We have income from the Walter Deebel estate and Jackson Annuity Endowment fund. The council discussed what to do with this money. Discussed the large stained glass window status. Jerid Lindenmuth brought up some new ideas in reference to depleting church attendance. He suggested having Sunday school during the service on Sunday to help families who want to attend but have young children. He also brought up that we should do more activities and programs for the youth of the congregation. One idea was having an Easter egg hunt. Jewel volunteered to clean up the nursery room to get it ready for a possible spot for Sunday School during service.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.  
Jerid Lindenmuth, Secretary

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRANDONVILLE  
COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

**Members In Attendance:** Pastor Phil Smith, Bob Fritz, Marie Clark, Deb Kapusnick, Larry Grohol, Billie Jo Grohol, Georgette Herring, Marion Chupasco

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reviewed and sent to audit.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Phil said catechism classes are progressing nicely. He offered information on the Carmen Delese Sr. Scholarship Fund (Sponsorship Request). This is the 1st annual Carmen Delese Sr. Scholarship Fund festival dedicated to celebrating community and supporting education. An informational flyer has been posted on the bulletin board. Pastor Phil will be doing drive by ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ringtown is scheduled for 12:30 and Brandonville at 1:30. In Brandonville he will be positioned out in front of the church near the intersection to the alley. There is a spaghetti supper scheduled in April, and it will be held in Nuremberg.

**Office Report:** Available for review. The Sunday school picnic will be held at Knoebels the first Saturday in June. A chicken BBQ is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup> at Ringtown. The Sunday School Seder will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup> during the regular Sunday school time.

**Old Business: Elevator:** Weather stripping has been added around the outside door in order to hold in the heat. An additional heater has been placed at the lower level to keep the hydraulics at the needed temperature. Drawings for a new foyer to be added were available for review. **Parking lot:** continues to be a work in progress, **Fund Raisers:** We are continuing to sell La Casita de Familia coupons for 15.00\$. **Deebel Estate:** After last month's council meeting, we received the notification. **Snow Plowing:** Larry Grohol will follow up on this matter.

**New Business:** Discussed a possible worship booklet.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.  
Marie Clark, Secretary

**PRAYER FOR OUR PASTORAL VACANCY**

Gracious God, as we prepare to call a new pastor, may we count on the support and prayers of our members just as we trust your Spirit to guide us. During this time of pastoral vacancy, we pray for patience through the call process, that when your time is right, you will lead us to our new pastoral leadership. We pray that you would keep us strong in our faith and worship life; and we thank you for blessing us with supply pastors, and worship leaders. As pastoral candidates review our ministry profile, we pray for them and their families. We ask that you would be with them as they prayerfully consider their decision to accept our call. We ask that you work through our Call Committee and guide them in their duties; give them wisdom in choosing a pastor to lead us into the future and an exciting new chapter in our life of faith and ministry. All this we ask in your Holy name. Amen



*My Easter Offering*



### LENTEN SELF DENIAL ENVELOPES

Write your name and "My Lenten World Hunger Offering" on an envelope and mail it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Palm Sunday or on Easter Sunday.

### 2024 LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesdays, 7pm

- Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday - at Mt Zion (Zion Grove)
- Feb 21 - at Emmanuel (Nuremberg)
- Feb 28 - at Mt Zion
- Mar 6 - at Emmanuel
- Mar 13 - at Mt Zion
- Mar 20 - at Emmanuel
- Mar 28 - Maundy Thursday - at Mt Zion
- Mar 29 - Good Friday - at Emmanuel

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

- MAR 24 Passion/Palm Sunday w/Palm Procession  
9am-Brndvl 10:30am-Rngtn
- MAR 28 7pm Maundy Thursday at Emmanuel, Nuremberg
- MAR 29 Good Friday  
12noon Community Worship, Bethany UMC, Nuremberg  
7pm Parish Worship at Emmanuel, Nuremberg
- MAR 31 The Resurrection of Our Lord  
9am at Brndvl 10:30am at Rngtn

### EASTER FLOWERS & MEMORIALS

Please mail or call the church office 570-889-5203 if you would like to place a donation in honor or memory of someone for Easter. Mail to: St. John's Lutheran Church, PO Box 261, Ringtown, PA 17967 Signup sheets are also available.

**Please note the use of different funds:**

**General:** day to day operating expenses

**Memorial:** worship supplies (altarware, candles, paraments, linens, music, etc.)

**Capital Campaign (Rngtn):** toward new church building

**Window Restoration (Rngtn):** toward restoration of Garden of Gethsemane altar window

**Endowment (Rngtn):** savings for future needs

**Cemetery:** upkeep of cemetery

**Deadline: MAR 24 to be included in the Easter bulletin.**



### SYNOD BENEVOLENCE APPEAL

The church councils have designated Palm Sunday, MAR 24, for a special benevolence appeal. Please be sure to write your name and envelope number on the outside. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate on Palm Sunday or mailed to the church office. Your donations will supplement our annual Synod Benevolence commitment. Envelopes are also available on the SS area table at Rngtn and in the entry way at Brndvl and by bulletins.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**MAR 10 & 24, 9:30am at Rngtn  
10am at Brndvl**

Sunday School is a valuable way to nurture our children and help them grow in their Christian faith. All of our young people, as well as adults, are encouraged to attend. Classes are available for age 3 and up. If you know someone who needs transportation, offer them a ride. Sunday School teachers also play an important role in our children's faith life. Please consider being part of this educational process and sharing your faith with our youth. **Teachers and helpers are needed!**

### EASTER EGG HUNT

**SUN, MAR 24, 9:30-10:30am**

St. John's Lutheran Church in Ringtown will be holding an Easter egg hunt for children on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 10:30am. Children of all ages are welcome. If you plan to attend, please RSVP the church by phone or email by MAR 17 570-889-5203 or [ringtownlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:ringtownlutheran@gmail.com)

### CATECHISM CLASSES

**SUN, 2pm at Rngtn  
MAR 17, 24**

...and every SUN, 2pm until completed, subject to change with Pr. Phil's discretion (i.e. inclement weather, church event, etc.)

All 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade members and those eligible who have not been confirmed yet are required to attend classes and fulfill expectations in order to affirm their baptism on the Day of Pentecost, May 19, 2024. Worship attendance sign-in sheets are in the choir room at Brndvl and on the table in the SS area at Rngtn.

### RINGTOWN BIBLE STUDY

**MAR 3 & 17, 9:15am**

...in the nursery room. We will meet twice a month and will start with "Seamless", a 7 session book, beginning with the Old Testament. See Laura Faust for more information. High School to Adults welcome.

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Signup sheets are available on the counter at Brndvl and on the SS area table at Rngtn. If you signed up as a communion assistant, lay reader, or greeter on the Time & Talent sheets, please add your name and choose the dates you would like to serve. For those who are reading lessons, the Celebrate inserts are also there to take.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY “PERSONAL CARE KIT” PROJECT

The Social Ministry Committee will continue our project of assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief during the Lenten and Easter seasons. In these times when people are fleeing their homes for reasons of personal safety, famine, natural disasters, etc, Personal Care items are rarely taken with them. These kits provide much needed self-care items and the chance to regain dignity.

The following items can be dropped off at the church or you can make a monetary donation for the purchase of these items. Please designate for care kits.

- 1 Lightweight, dark colored bath towels
- 2 Bath size bars of soap (no mini bars)
- 3 Adult size toothbrush
- 4 Sturdy combs (no fine tooth or pocket)
- 5 Metal nail clippers

Please be generous as we assist our neighbors in need. Your hands doing God's work.

## ELW HYMNAL DONATIONS

If you would like to donate one of the new ELW hymnals for \$25 each, please write Memorial Fund, your name, and information (in honor or memory of someone or presented by) on an envelope with your \$25 enclosed and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. A bookplate will be placed inside the front cover of a hymnal.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEES FOR MARCH 2024

**Brandonville** Altar: Marie Clark, Colleen Fowler

### Ringtown

Altar: Judy Llewellyn, Linda Shoup

Ushers: Laura Faust, Janice Wasser

Communion Glass Usher: Jewel Tuberty

Greeter: Gary Schell, Bill Rudolph

## ELECTION DAY LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE TUE, APR 23

... 11am-5pm at St. John's, Brandonville, sponsored by the Brandonville Union Sunday School  
(pre-ordered pints & quarts of soup available)

... 11am-2pm at St. John's, Ringtown, sponsored by St. John's Helping Hands

Your donations of baked goods will be appreciated. In addition to baked goods, soup, hot dogs, BBQ, and other luncheons items will be available.

## LA CASITA DE FAMILIA RESTAURANT

**GIFT CERTIFICAT FUNDRAISER**...sponsored by St. John's, Brndvl. Cost: \$15 each The \$15 certificate will be deducted from the total of your food purchase. Funds raised go to the General Fund. Certificates can be used at both locations in Shenandoah and the Hometown farmer's market.

## RINGTOWN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS!

**Great News! We received a pledge to reach our \$300,060 goal! Pledge monies received to date: \$230,233 toward the \$300,060 goal. We have finished 2/3 of the campaign, and have \$69,827 to go to achieve our goal!**

“Capital Campaign” envelopes are available in the pew if you would like to make a contribution toward this building project. We continue to ask you to prayerfully consider how you might help contribute financially to our Capital Campaign as we move forward in our new church building project. Help make our ministry happen!

## HELPING HANDS PORK & SAUERKRAUT DINNER SAT, APR 20, pickup 4:30-6:30pm \$11 Takeout only

pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce  
Funds raised to benefit the new building Capital Campaign Fund. Tickets available from any Helping Hands member or the church office. **Ticket deadline: APR 14**

## ST. JOHN'S HELPING HANDS CARD SALE

Just a reminder about the ongoing card sale sponsored by St. John's Helping Hands. Get Well, Sympathy, Birthday, and All Occasion cards are available. If you are interested in cards, please see Shirley Troy.

## ST. JOHN'S, RNGTN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

5inch Family Tree Ornament \$10 (apprx 10 names)  
12inch Family Tree Wall Hanger \$35 (apprx 20 names)  
Order forms are on the SS area table at Rngtn along with sample pictures of each. All orders to be prepaid: No personal checks. Cash or Money Order made out to: CASH. Rentschlers is also taking orders.



## ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

If you are a Thrivent member and qualify to apply for a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Project seed money gift card, please contact the church office. We have several upcoming events at Brandonville and Ringtown. These gift cards help purchase supplies for our events and add to the profits raised. You either qualify for 1 or 2 projects. If you are not sure, contact Thrivent to see if your products qualify. Organizations registered in our area are both St. John's, Brandonville and Ringtown and the Ringtown Area Library. You can direct Choice Dollars by going online to your account or calling 1-800-847-4836; press 1 and follow the directions. Your help is greatly appreciated!

## 2024 FLOWER & BULLETIN CHARTS

...are in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers or bulletins for any Sunday in 2024, please specify which one you are providing, flowers or bulletins.

Bulletin prices: regular Sundays \$5.00-B \$10.00-R  
Christmas & Easter festivals \$10.00-B \$20.00-R

## Donating through a QCD

If you are age 70 ½ or older, IRS rules may allow you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts (IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s, 457(b)s, inherited IRA plans, etc.). If you take the RMD as income, it will count as taxable income. This additional taxable income may push you into a high tax bracket and may also reduce your eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions. To eliminate or reduce the impact of RMD income, instead consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to St. John's Lutheran. Please speak with your financial advisor before taking any funds from your tax deferred retirement account.

## HEATING FUND ENVELOPES

Your donations in this envelope will be used to help defray the rising cost of heating the church building during the winter months. Please be sure to write your name and envelope number on the outside. Envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

## CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OFFERING ENVELOPES

Cemetery Association offering envelopes are now available in the pew pockets and on the SS area table for your use if you would like to help with cemetery maintenance, upkeep, and finances.

## CEMETERY REMINDER

Flowers, potted plants, floral arrangements, or other decorations on the cemetery must be removed within 14 days following each holiday or the cemetery caretaker has permission to remove them, especially during grass mowing season.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

3-2 6pm setup & 3-3 1pm Blue & Gold Boy Scout banquet  
3-13 St. Mary's Shoo-fly pie \$9 or crust \$3 order deadline  
for 3-19 pickup, 10am-12noon Call 570-889-3850 to order.  
3-17 BUSS Seder during regular SS time  
3-21 Rotary Kaufman chicken bbq dinner pickup 3-6pm \$13  
4-20 4:30-6:30pm Helping Hands Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner  
\$11 Takeout only  
4-23 Election Day Luncheons & Bake Sales B-11am-5pm R-  
11am-2pm  
4-27 Your Sister's Closet Fashion Show  
4-27 10am-12pm St. Paul's Chili pickup  
5-4 Your Sister's Closet Vendor show  
5-9 10am Ascension Day at the Old White Church  
5-15 4:30-6:30pm Helping Hands Italian Hoagie sale pickup  
5-18 AMUMC Rough Cut meal sale pickup  
5-19 5-7pm St. Paul's Ice Cream Social  
7-14 AMUMC Strawberry Social  
7-(16-20) ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans  
7-19,20,21 Library Book Sale 7-20 Yard Sale Day  
7-21 St. John's Chicken BBQ  
8-11AMUMC Peach Social  
8-16&17 4-9pm 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Social  
9-4 3:30-5:30pm Social Ministry Meatloaf Dinner  
10-5 AMUMC Soup Sale  
10-20 St. John's Chicken BBQ  
Fire Company Breakfast - 2nd SUN, OCT-APR  
Fire Company Pizza Sales - 3rd FRI, OCT-MAY

## FOOD PANTRY-REDNERS GIFT CARDS

2<sup>nd</sup> SAT of month, 9-11am at Ringtown

3<sup>rd</sup> SAT of month, 9-11am, FEB, APR, JUN, AUG, OCT, DEC at  
Nuremberg

REDNERS GIFT CARDS are available for purchase to help fund the Ringtown Food Pantry. The pantry receives 5% on gift card sales. Contact Susie Drukker 889-3755 or Ann O'Boyle 889-5305 to purchase cards for \$20, \$25, or \$50. Use your card at Redners and the church or Brandonville Union Sunday School will receive 1% for all receipts submitted through them, helping fund another organization, too.

**NOTE:** All eligible area residents may file papers to choose to go to either the Ringtown or Nuremberg Food Pantry. You must choose one or the other, you cannot go to both.

A Food Pantry is available at the Ringtown Union Twp. building and at the North Union Twp. building in Nuremberg for all area residents of Ringtown Borough, North Union, East Union, and Union Twp. Donations of non-perishable food items are requested to help stock them. Please bring your donations to the church or other designated collection sites. Ringtown area clergy will refer people to the pantry.

